

Stone Barn (Storehouse)
Johnsonburg
Warren County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Stone Barn (Storehouse)
Johnsonburg
Warren County, New Jersey

Owner and Occupant: Mr. George Van Horn*

Date of Erection: Before 1849

Builder: Isaae Dennis (died 1864)

Present Condition: Original. One of two front doors changed to windows. The wagon-height door sills indicate the storehouse character of this building.

Number of Storeys: One

Materials of Construction

Foundation: Stone masonry

Exterior walls: Split face stone laid up in broken range masonry. Some very long corner quoins

Roof: Gable, wood shingled

Historical Data:

The identity of the original owner of this so-called barn (properly described as store-house hereinafter) is deduced from the evidence found by search of title in the public records of Sussex and Warren Counties.

By a deed of 2 April 1814, one Aaron Luce of Hardwick Township, Sussex County, conveyed to Isaae Dennis same place for \$160 a 5 acre lot. These having a frontage of some 520 feet on the northwest side of the "Great Road leading from

*The lot lies on both sides of the road leading northeast from Johnsonburg to Newton, the house being on the left-hand side, opposite the building here surveyed. A postal card view, captioned George Van Horn Residence, Johnsonburg, N. J., was supplied by him, with statement of its erection and occupancy by Isaac Dennis, use of the small wing as a store, and considerable remodelling by himself since inheritance thereof from his grandfather in 1902. He has no knowledge of the origin of the stone barn across the road.

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log goal# to the frame Meeting House," bounded northeast by land of Shaw and southwest by the balance of a 37 acre tract acquired by grantor from one Charles Coxo of Hunterdon County on 14 May 1813. "All and singular the buildings, improvements" etc. are mentioned in this conveyance to Dennis, from which it is evident that some kind of cottage had been erected during the year of Luce's ownership. Whether this 5 acre lot has any connection with the property here considered, we have been unable to determine.

Isaac Dennis assembled considerable acreage adjacent to the 5 acre tract acquired in 1814 as above stated, and built his farmhouse on that side of the highway, many of the deeds conveying tracts of less than an acre. Of these, the only one evidently related to the lot on which stands the building here considered, lying across the road from his house, is that given by John L. Armstrong conveying a $1\frac{1}{2}$ acre lot to Dennis, dated 28 March 1849, the \$1100 consideration money thereof indicating the existence of some building existing thereon. Recital of the title from William Linn by David Linn to Robert W. Denman, from Henry M. Winters to Andrew Shiner, to John L. and Henry P. Armstrong as partners, and to the said John L. Armstrong, is made in this deed, but none of these conveyances are found on record. Accordingly, it is not possible to state definitely the original owner of this stone masonry building. Isaac Dennis owned it at the time of his death in 1864.

In the record of the division and allotment of the real estate of Isaac Dennis, late of Frelinghuysen Township, Warren County (a) deceased, dated 26 December 1865, a 130 acre farm went to John H. Livens, 6 acre woodlot to Robert Blair, 6 acre lot with storehouse, smith shop, barn and dwelling to Matthias Byther, 1 acre adjoining the "Church Lot" with storehouse and other buildings to John Hall, a 2 acre lot with house, foundry, shop and barn to David G. Van Horn, and three other lots comprising some two acres to

#The "log goal" was the first building erected for the County of Sussex upon its creation in 1753 from part of Morris County, and continued in use until a new jail was built in Newton in 1763, but the term persisted many years afterward as the name of the village until it became John-sonburg. (G. W. Cummins, History of Warren County, New Jersey, 1911, p. 131.)

(a) Warren County created 1824 from part of Sussex County, and Frelinghuysen Township, formed 1848 from Hardwick Township.

other persons. (b)

By deed of 5 April 1866, the commissioners appointed by the Court to divide the real estate as above conveyed to John Hall of the same Frelinghuysen Township, for \$2800 the one-acre tract mentioned. He held title only until 21 May next, on which date he conveyed the same lot with all and singular the houses, buildings, etc. to John Besherer of same place, for \$2822, describing it as lying in the village of Johnsonburg, and as crossed by the road from Hope to Newton, bounded northwest by the "Old Episcopal Church lot belonging to the heirs of Isaac Dennis, "north by Robert Blair, south by Matthias Hyther, and southwest also by Samuel O. Ramsey, containing 1.12 acres.

Besherer sold this lot to Joseph B. Luse of Frelinghuysen Township by deed of 28 August 1886, who devised all his real estate, to his grandson George Van Horn by his will dated 26 May 1902 and proved 19 December following. Mr. Van Horn (who is the Postmaster of the village) remains as owner and occupant of the property at the time of our survey of the storhouse-barn in November 1937.

Reference:

Search of title in records of Warren and Sussex Counties by Oscar F. Benjamin, H.A.B.S. Research Editor, reported 18 October 1940.

Lewis D. Cook

Supervising Historian 31 March 1941

Approved:

Seymour Williams

SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

(b) Minutes of Court of Common Pleas, Warren County,
Book 5, December 1865 Term.